SECRET EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Discussion with the President on Tibet, 4 February 1960

PRESENT: White House: Mr. Gray
General Goodpaster
State: Mr. Herter
Mr. Merchant
Defense: Mr. Douglas
Mr. Irwin
CIA Mr. Dulles
General Cabell
Mr. Fitzgerald

Mr. Dulles briefed the group on CIA operations in support of the Tibetan resistance. He covered the history of the program [redacted] and he described the high quality of the resistance fighters and their strong motivation.

The DCI requested approval for the continuation of the program [redacted] to the resistance elements so far identified and to those which are expected to be contacted in the future. [redacted]

The President wondered whether the net result of these operations would not be more brutal repressive reprisals by the Chinese Communists who he felt might not find continued resistance tolerable. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that there could be no greater brutality than had been experienced in Tibet in the past.

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The President asked the Secretary of State whether he was in favor of proceeding as recommended by Mr. Dulles. The Secretary responded that he was so in favor after full consultation with appropriate persons in his department. He felt not only would continued successful resistance by the Tibetans prove to be a serious harrassement to the Chinese Communists but would serve to keep the spark alive in the entire area. He felt that the long-range results could mean much to the free world apart from humanitarian considerations for the Tibetans.

Mr. Dulles emphasized that this program has been, and will continue to be, subject to close review by the Designated Representatives

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under NSC 5412/2; that all significant developments will be brought to the attention of the Representatives; and that in the event anything arises indicating the desirability of a change in plans, the Representatives will be consulted.

The President gave his approval for the continuation of the program as outlined.

Gordon Gray
Special Assistant to the President